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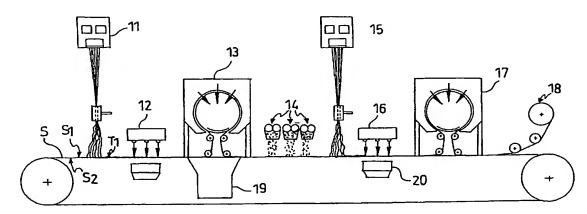
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(54) Title: NON-WOVEN BASED ON EXPLODED OR SPLITTABLE MULTICOMPONENT FIBERS



(57) Abstract: A hydro-entangled non-woven based on multi-component fibers, either exploded or splittable by hydro-entangling, and a process for the obtaining of the same is described: the thus obtained non-woven has improved softness, resistance and appearance and increases the productive potential of a future industrial line.

### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 D04H13/00 D04H D04H3/02 D04H3/10 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 D04H Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category 9 8,9, WO 02/099176 A (FLEISSNER GEROLD ; GERKING X 11-14, LUEDER (DE); FLEISSNER MASCHF GMBH CO (D) 27-30,33 12 December 2002 (2002-12-12) claims 1-5 EP 1 156 147 A (KANG NA HSIUNG ENTPR CO 1-7,27, X LTD) 21 November 2001 (2001-11-21) 28,33,34 claims 1,5,6,10,11,17,18 1-34 US 2002/034914 A1 (CARLSON CHERYL LYNN Α AL) 21 March 2002 (2002-03-21) paragraph '0035!; figures 2A-2C 1 - 34EP 0 933 459 A (UNITIKA LTD) Α 4 August 1999 (1999-08-04) claims 1-4 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. X Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance Invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed Invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the International search report 22/11/2004 8 November 2004 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 65T epo nl, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016 Mangin, S

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